

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 692

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EAID XX

SUBJ: FY 74 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION RESTRICTIONS

REF: STATE 236151

1. LANGUAGE IN PARA 2 REFTEL DESCRIBING MILITARY BASE WOULD SEEM TO INCLUDE NTC KENITRA AND NCS SIDI YAHYA AND BOUKNADEL, ALTHOUGH NTC IS LOCATED ON MOROCCAN BASE, OF WHICH SIDI YAHYA AND BOUKNADEL ARE CONSIDERED BY MOROCCANS TO BE ANNEXES. MOROCCANS IN FACT DO CONTROL ENTRY TO KENITRA, BUT AMERICANS CONTROL ACCESS TO SIDI YAHYA AND BOUKNADEL AT MOMENT. WE WOULD LOSE THAT CONTROL, OF COURSE, IF THERE WAS UNDUE PUBLICITY ABOUT THESE INSTALLATIONS.

2. GIVEN LOCAL POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES REGARDING THESE INSTALLATIONS, WE AND MOROCCANS HAVE BOTH FELT IT IN OUR INTEREST TO KEEP REPORTERS OUT OF THEM. WE CAN RECALL ONLY A FEW SPECIFIC CASES WITHIN PAST TWO YEARS WHEN ENTRY DENIED TO AMERICAN NEWS REPRESENTATIVE, USUALLY DURING INTERNAL POLITICAL CRISES. FOR INSTANCE, WE BELIEVE MIKE GOLDSMITH (NON-AMERICAN), PARIS CORRESPONDENT OF AP, HAS TRIED GAIN ACCESS TO KENITRA TWO OR THREE TIME SINCE 1970 AND HAS BEEN REFUSED BY MOROCCANS.

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SINCE BASE IS IN FACT MOROCCAN AND HOUSES CONSIDERABLY MORE

MOROCCANS THAN AMERICANS, WE HAVE NOT FELT THERE ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR US TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF U.S. REPORTERS. GIVEN CLASSIFIED NATURE ACTIVITIES AT NCS, WE WOULD DISCOURAGE VISIT TO THAT INSTALLATION BY FOREIGN OR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT. WELL-PUBLICIZED WASHINGTON STAR STORY REPORTING ALLEGED EXISTENCE CIA-SPONSORED JOURNALISTS COULD ALSO HEIGHTEN GOM SUSPICION OF NEWSPAPERMEN SEEKING ENTRANCE ON BASES.

3. EVEN WERE THERE NO AMERICANS PRESENT AT KENITRA, MOROCCANS WOULD NOT PERMIT ACCESS BY MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES OF ANY STRIPE. ALL MOROCCAN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ARE OFF LIMITS TO THEM. POLICY WITH REGARD KENITRA THEREFORE CONSISTENT WITH OVERALL MOROCCAN POLICY TOWARDS MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. EFFORT ON OUR PART CHANGE MOROCCAN POLICY COULD RESULT IN LOSS OF FACILITIES IN QUESTION.
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